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Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Programme 17
Economic development in Europe

1. At its 14th meeting, on 10 June 2014, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 17, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 17) and Corr.1).

2. The Acting Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme. The successful completion of the review of the reform, which had resulted in greater transparency, was welcomed. The programme was commended for its efforts towards greater integration and promotion of well-being and prosperity, and recognized for the progress made in its respective areas. The importance of the attention given to gender by the programme was highlighted and welcomed. It was pointed out that the programme has had a positive effect on the citizens in the region and that it played an important role in coordination among relevant organizations to complement

synergies, avoid overlap and duplication, ensure system-wide coherence and disseminate good practices. The view was expressed that the programme played a major role in the economic sphere and an active role in the area of sustainable development.

4. Clarification was sought on how the results of the discussion on economic development and creating a competitive economy were affecting ECE and how they translated into the implementation of the subprogrammes. It was pointed out that there was no reference to results-based management in the fascicle and elaboration was sought on such management in the programme. Elaboration was also requested on the important elements of the programme as reflected in the programme performance report of the United Nations for the biennium 2012-2013, particularly the amendment to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes that had opened the Convention for accession by all United Nations Member States and ensured equal access to water worldwide. Questions were raised on the challenges for the forthcoming biennium, and how the differing levels of development in the region were dealt with in the implementation of the programme.

5. It was noted that changes had been made in the proposed strategic framework as compared to that of 2014-2015.

6. With regard to subprogramme 2, Transport, clarification was sought on how indicator of achievement (b) (i) was linked to the expected accomplishment if the contracting parties did not come from the region, and how indicator of achievement (c) (ii) was linked to the expected accomplishment when the indicator of achievement included members outside the scope of the programme.

7. With regard to subprogramme 3, Statistics, the view was expressed that the scope of the objective as drafted appeared to go beyond the extent of ECE activities.

8. Concerns were raised that the section on legislative mandates specific to ECE subprogrammes, subprogramme 5, Sustainable energy, did not contain an exhaustive list of references to resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, which constituted the body of intergovernmental mandates relevant to ECE activities in the field of energy.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraphs 17.2 and 17.3

Replace paragraph 17.2 with the following and delete paragraph 17.3:

"17.2. The overarching theme of the programme is sustainable development, which will be achieved through implementing the agreed mandates of and strengthening the synergies among its eight subprogrammes: (a) environment; (b) transport; (c) statistics; (d) economic cooperation and integration; (e) sustainable energy;

(f) trade; (g) forestry and timber; and (h) housing, land management and population. Consistent with the legislative mandates, including Commission decision A (65) of 11 April 2013 on the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE and other legislative mandates, the programme will promote sustainable development and regional cooperation and integration through (a) policy dialogue; (b) normative work; and (c) technical cooperation."

Paragraph 17.3 (formerly 17.4)

Replace the current paragraph with the following:

"17.3. In particular, ECE will provide a neutral platform for regional policy dialogue on economic, social and environmental issues among its 56 member States. It will support the normative work through the exchange of experiences and the development and implementation of international legal instruments, norms and standards, as well as the identification and dissemination of best practices in and outside the region. It will promote technical cooperation with countries in the region, including economies in transition, with a view to integrating them into the world economy and achieving sustainable development in the region."

Paragraph 17.4

After paragraph 17.3, insert a new paragraph, as follows:

"17.4. The programme is expected to continue to actively contribute to the global development agenda, including by defining standards that could be used by developing countries, possibly by opening up ECE legal instruments to global participation, by taking joint action with other regional commissions and United Nations entities and by contributing to North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in close consultation with the broader United Nations development system through the United Nations Development Group."

Paragraph 17.5

In the first sentence, after the words "women constitute", insert the words "more than".

New paragraph 17.13

After paragraph 17.12, insert a new paragraph, as follows:

"17.13. The programme will continue to focus on delivering concrete results that seek to improve people's daily lives."